

REMARKS

In connection with the filing of a request for continued examination (“RCE”), the above amended claims and following remarks are submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated July 27, 2007. Claims 1-19 are canceled. Claims 20-46 are added. Accordingly, claims 20-46 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 11, 13-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,076,103 issued to Yamada (hereinafter “Yamada”). To establish an anticipation rejection the Examiner must show that the cited reference teaches each element of a claim.

In regard to claims 1-3, 11, 13-16, and 18, these claims are canceled. As a result, the Examiner’s rejection is moot.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10, 12, 17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yamada. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness: (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference; (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the references when combined must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2142.

In regard to claims 9, 10, 12, 17, and 19, these claims are canceled. As a result, the Examiner’s rejection is moot.

Claims 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yamada in view of “The JPEG2000 Still Image Coding System: An Overview,” Skodras et al. (hereinafter “Skodras”) and ISO/IEC 15444-1 (hereinafter “JPEG2000”) and 15444-3 (hereinafter “Motion JPEG”).

With respect to claims 4-8, these claims are canceled. Consequently, the Examiner's rejection is moot.

III. New Claims 20-46

Claims 20-46 are added without introducing new matter. The Applicant respectfully submits that support for these claims is found, for example, in paragraphs [0048], [0073], [0074], and Fig. 9 and 10 of the Specification. These claims are discussed in relation with the references of record below.

Independent claims 20, 21, 23, 24, and 27 recite that the information of the master image data stored in the file header of the image compressed code and the information of the image compressed code of the dynamic image data are one of "a number code bits," "a number of bit planes," "a resolution," "a number of rectangular regions" and "a number of frames". These elements are not taught or suggested in Yamada. Yamada, in contrast, proposes an apparatus that determines whether or not compression information is added to a file header of the image data, expands and displays the image data on a monitor if the compression information is added thereto, and displays the image data as it is on the monitor if no compression information is added thereto. See Yamada, column 6, lines 5-17; Fig. 5. In addition, when a compression instruction including the compression information is input, the compression process performed based on the input compression instruction (input compression information). See Yamada, column 6, lines 18-21. When performing this compression process, a determination is made as to whether the compression information is added to the image information, and if the compression information is added, the picture quality level is displayed based on the added compression information and the input compression information. See Yamada, column 6, lines 21-30. In other words, Yamada teaches adding the compression information to the file header of the image data, and displaying the picture quality level based on this compression information and the input compression information. However, Yamada's compression information only includes information related to the *compression ratio*, *compression format*, *reversible compression*, or *irreversible compression* instead of "a number code bits," "a number of bit planes," "a resolution," "a number of rectangular regions" and "a number of frames," as recited in the claims. See Yamada, column 2, lines 28-30. Consequently, for these reasons, Yamada fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 20, 21, 23, 24, and 27.

Further, the Applicant is unable to discern and the Examiner has not cited the portions of Skodras, JPEG2000, and Motion JPEG that teach or suggest the above elements. Instead, Skodras relates to decoding compressed images, and JPEG2000 and Motion JPEG relate to file format syntax for respective file formats. However, these references fail to teach a comparison of relative image quality based on the previously discussed elements. In addition, dependent claims 22, 25, 26, and 28 are patentable over the cited art because of their respective dependencies on base claims 20, 21, 23, 24, and 27. Thus, in view of these foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-28 are patentable over Yamada, Skodras, JPEG2000, and Motion JPEG. Accordingly, claims 20-28 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

With respect to claims 29-37, these claims are directed at a computer-readable storage medium and recite analogous limitations to those in claims 20-28. Claims 38-46 are directed to an image processing method and recite analogous limitations to those in claims 20-28. Therefore, for at least the foregoing submitted reasons in connection with claims 20-28, claims 29-46 are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-46 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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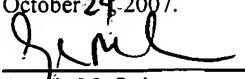
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 29, 2007.


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